

CONFIDENTIAL

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

OSS DOCUMENTS AND WAR CRIMES RECORDS RELATING TO HITLER DIARIES

FROM:

Chief, Classification Review
Division
322 Ames

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

9 May 1983

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. Director of Information
Services, 1206 Ames

10 MAY 1983

10 May

KZ

2.

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C/CRD

11 May 83

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Karen

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15.

UNCLASSIFIED WHEN
SEPARATED.Good memo!
Thanks.

file: Liaison/NARS

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OIS Registry
83-324

9 May 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: [redacted]
Director of Information Services

FROM: [redacted]
Chief, Classification Review Division

SUBJECT: OSS Documents and War Crimes Records
Relating to Hitler Diaries

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On 6 May 1983, C/CRD received a call from Alan Thompson, Chief, Declassification Division of NARS, asking for clearances to release three OSS documents from the War Crimes Records that appear to relate to the Hitler diaries. Mr. Thompson wanted a quick response because of intense media interest in the information. This information was contained in a file on one Joseph Spacil, who joined the Nazi SS in 1931. According to this information, Spacil allegedly revealed that Hitler kept a personal diary -- handwritten on thin tissue-like paper beginning in 1923, and that he, Spacil, had been in possession of these diaries after the death of Hitler; along with correspondence between Hitler and Eva Braun and a bloody uniform taken from Hitler's body. It was attested that Spacil buried the uniform, burned the correspondence, and buried the diaries in a zinc can. The allegations are made by one Franz Konrad who claimed Spacil had told him these things while they were prisoners together in a POW camp awaiting interrogation. [redacted]

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The three OSS documents were all written in 1945 probably by the OSS/X-2 and concerned the German use of mobile gas chambers on the Russian front which, in some way, Spacil may have been involved. The content of the documents did not appear classified but the names of three OSS officers were mentioned. Mr. Thompson requested our clearance to release these names and the three documents as soon as possible because of high media interests. [redacted]

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Chief, CRD contacted the DO/IRO on the secure line and explained the situation and described the documents involved. The DO/IRO said he had no objection to release of the documents and that the names of OSS officers are releasable unless they continued to work for the CIA in a covert capacity. The documents also contained two codewords, "Saint" and "Lucky" and the DO/IRO said that such codewords had long

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since been released. The names in question were:

Chief, CRD then called Mr. Robert Wolfe, Chief, Modern Military Records at NARS, and informed him that CIA raised no objection to the release of the three documents. Mr. Wolfe explained more of the background in this case. He stated that about a year ago, some of the material in the War Crime Records had been released by the Army to an inquiring journalist. When the Hitler diaries story broke, this journalist recalled that he had read something about the Hitler diaries in the material which the Army had given him. The result was to spark an interest in War Crimes material which included the file in question on Spacil that had been withheld from release by the Army in 1956 because it contained information about the activities of CIC. Mr. Wolfe went on to say that while the statement by Konrad appears to support the Hitler diaries story, a check of the interrogation record revealed that Spacil was asked directly about the Hitler diaries and he claimed that he never had such diaries, that Konrad was in error and may have been referring to the diaries of Ms. Eva Braun. Mr. Wolfe also stated that when he releases this information to the media, he would include all of the details related above to make sure that people understand there is a question over the veracity of Franz Konrad's statement concerning Hitler diaries. It was also noted on this same date, that the West German Bundesarchiv reported that the documents were obvious forgeries based on technical analysis.

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It should be noted that Mr. Wolfe was very irate with the U.S. Army because they had released to a journalist parts of records that had been accessioned to NARS. In such cases, the record copy is held by NARS and any public release should be made by them, not by the originating agency. Since three OSS documents were contained in this material, it raises the question whether the Army is always certain that information or documents belonging to other agencies are coordinated with those agencies before release.

probably not!

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